

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 076623

73

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 /114 R

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ARA/BC - MR. ISAACS (INFO)

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R ,52325Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO USCINCSO

S E C R E T STATE 076623

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, CI, PE, US

SUBJ: TENSION BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU

REF: LIMA 2861

1. EMBASSY LIMA IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE THOROUGH AND ENLIGHTENING ASSESSMENT PROVIDED IN REFTEL. WE ARE STRUCK IN THIS AND OTHER REPORTING BY THE ELEMENTS OF IRRATIONALITY AND MISAPPREHENSION ON BOTH SIDES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE NIE NOW IN PREPARATION WILL HELP US TO FOCUS MORE CLOSELY ON POSSIBLE REMEDIES, AS WELL AS ON THE BROADER POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MISSIONS SHOULD TAKE WHATEVER APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES MAY PRESENT THEMSELVES TO ENCOURAGE COOLER AND MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDES ON BOTH SIDES. AT LEAST PUBLICLY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO REDUCE TENSIONS. RECENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 076623

VELASCO'S TEN-POINT STATEMENT OF MARCH 28 AND THE RELATIVE-
LY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE GOC TO THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL
FOR ARMS LIMITATIONS. RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF
THIS KIND MIGHT BE SINGLED OUT FOR PRIVATE PRAISE AS A
MEANS OF CONVEYING OUR INTEREST IN A CALMING OF THE
ATMOSPHERE.

3. WE ARE NOT, OF COURSE, IN A POSITION TO OFFER FIRM

JUDGMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE ULTIMATE INTENTIONS OF
EITHER SIDE TOWARD THE OTHER. WE PERHAPS CAN, HOWEVER,
HELP TO DEFLATE THE WILDER ILLUSIONS THIS SITUATION
GENERATES AND SHOULD DO SO WHENEVER WE CAN. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: LIMA
SANTIAGO
Type: TE
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